



**Equity Statement to Approve the Menstrual Education Amendments to the District of
Columbia’s State Health Education Standards
SR23-2**

The D.C. State Board of Education (State Board) supports the Office of the State Superintendent’s (OSSE) addition of standards on menstruation to the state’s current health education standards, pursuant to the Expanding Student Access to Period Products Act of 2022 (D.C. Law 24-92). Adding standards on menstrual education that are designed for all students, regardless of gender beginning in grade 4, promotes health education equity.

The addition of menstrual health education standards entitles all District of Columbia students to complete and accurate knowledge about the biology, products, and social stigma of menstruation. The menstrual health education standards also ensure all students are equipped with strategies to effectively communicate, problem solve, and advocate for the rights and health of menstruators starting in fourth grade. Access to such skills and knowledge—as well as reliable access to period products—should help reduce the period poverty, stigma, and misinformation that can cause menstruators to miss school.

Adding menstrual health education standards renews the District of Columbia’s commitment to comprehensive health education and establishes consistent expectations for instruction for all District public and public charter schools. Comprehensive health education standards are essential to increasing student agency, promoting attendance, and creating inclusive school environments. The menstrual health education standards promote equity by empowering all District students to become active participants in their own health while maintaining dignity and respect for their fellow students as they grow and develop.

